



Indoor Air Quality Tools for Schools

Every Child Deserves a School That is a Safe and Healthy Place to Learn

Yet, nearly one-fourth of the nation's schools have one or more buildings in need of extensive repair or replacement and nearly half have been reported to have problems related to indoor air quality (IAQ). Faulty structures place students at risk for exposure to asthma triggers, radon, mold and other indoor pollutants. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) estimates that indoor air pollution levels can be two to five times — and sometimes more than 100 times — higher than outdoor levels. Research shows that poor IAQ harms the health and performance of students and staff.¹

The good news is we can keep our children healthy at school! Be part of the community of nearly 50,000 schools taking effective actions to safeguard IAQ and promote the health and performance of our nation's students. EPA offers free *Indoor Air Quality Tools for Schools* resources to support schools seeking to improve their IAQ. Eighty-five percent of schools with an IAQ management plan have used the *IAQ Tools for Schools* guidance to create sustainable, positive change.²

IAQ Tools for Schools: Creating Safe and Healthy Learning Environments Where Students Can Thrive

The *IAQ Tools for Schools* guidance includes comprehensive information and resources for safeguarding IAQ and improving school occupant health, comfort, attendance and performance through:

- **Programmatic Guidance** to help schools create and sustain an IAQ management team of committed leaders using proven organizational approaches and leadership styles.
- **Technical Guidance** to help schools identify, correct and prevent IAQ problems in-house usually with simple, low- to no-cost solutions.
- **Communications Guidance** to help schools engage in dialogue and information sharing with staff, students and parents, and provide opportunities to connect with other IAQ school leaders nationwide.

“EPA’s Framework for Effective School IAQ

Management helped our school district achieve its goals and make continuous IAQ improvements each year. With this Framework in place, we know that we’re taking the right actions so that our students can strive for educational excellence in healthy learning environments.”

—Frank DiNella, Director of Operations,
Keller Independent School District, Texas

Essential Tools for Developing Lasting IAQ Management Programs: The *IAQ Tools for Schools* Action Kit

The *IAQ Tools for Schools* Action Kit houses all the tools you need to build and sustain your own unique IAQ management program. Put your IAQ management program into action with:

- Tailored, customizable checklists and detailed problem-solving guidance to help in-house staff assess and evaluate building conditions affecting IAQ.
- Information to educate and communicate with staff and the greater community about the what, where and why of IAQ in your school or district.
- Guidance for IAQ leaders in organizing and planning for long-term success.



Download the *IAQ Tools for Schools* Action Kit, including individual checklists and other resources, at <http://www.epa.gov/iaq/schools>.

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The Framework for Effective School IAQ Management: Key Drivers of Success and Technical Solutions

The *IAQ Tools for Schools* guidance has been implemented successfully in tens of thousands of schools nationwide. The Framework for Effective School IAQ Management synthesizes the accumulated learning of model school districts and is designed to promote the proven approaches and strategies for IAQ management that advance environmental health in schools. Comprised of programmatic Key Drivers and Technical Solutions, the Framework gives all schools — regardless of location, size, budget or condition — the opportunity to launch, reinvigorate and sustain an effective IAQ management program.

Six Key Drivers Underlie the Framework

The Six Key Drivers are the building blocks of effective and lasting IAQ management, or other school health and safety programs. The Key Drivers are essential strategies to create effective communication channels across a district, as well as to put in place a systematic cycle of continuous assessment, planning, action and evaluation.

Installing the Best Technical Solutions

The Six Technical Solutions define the most common issues that schools need to address to effectively manage IAQ risks. They help schools identify, correct and prevent IAQ problems using simple, low- to no-cost solutions. The Technical Solutions are most effectively implemented through an IAQ management plan built with the Key Drivers.



The tools and materials provided in the *IAQ Tools*

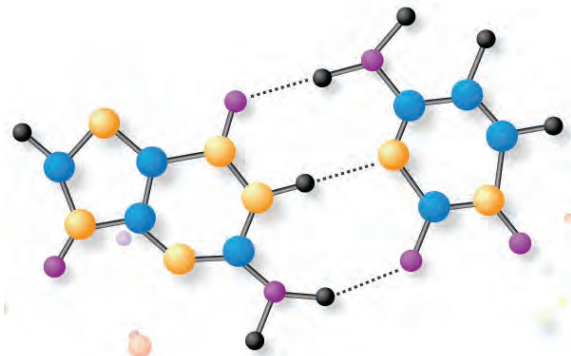
for Schools Action Kit will help you put the Six Key Drivers and Six Technical Solutions into action in your school district. Learn more about the Framework: Key Drivers and Technical Solutions at <http://www.epa.gov/iaq/schools>.

“Indoor Air Quality Tools for Schools gave us a framework for organizing; it provided the comprehensive approach we needed to pull it all together, strengthen our existing practices and get more out of our work.”

—Dave Hill, Executive Director, Facilities and Operations,
Blue Valley School District, Kansas

Get Connected: Convening Healthy School Leaders Online

The Schools Connector fosters mutual assistance and support for schools launching, reinvigorating and sustaining an IAQ management program. The Schools Connector offers dynamic, interactive resources and communication tools that connect you to the National Schools Network of peers, mentors and technical experts working together to create healthy school buildings across the country.



Get connected to your peers in the IAQ community — from those new to IAQ management to committed leaders and champions whose vast experience continually redefines success. The Schools Connector provides access to mentors and technical expertise through: interactive webinars, technical e-newsletters, an email discussion list, events calendar, and videos and podcasts.

Connect today by sending an email with ‘subscribe’ in the subject line to IAQTfSConnector@cadmusgroup.com.



¹ “How Does Indoor Air Quality Impact Student Health and Academic Performance?” EPA website. http://www.epa.gov/iaq/schools/student_performance/index.html

² Jones, S., Axelrad, R., and W. Wattingney. (2007). “Healthy and Safe School Environment, Part II, Physical School Environment: Results From the School Health Policies and Programs Study 2006.” *Journal of School Health*, October 2007, 77(8). Available: http://www.ashaweb.org/files/public/JOSH_1007/josh77_8_jones_p544.pdf